

The Company of
Watermen & Lightermen
of the River Thames



2019/20



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THE COURT 2020/2021

Mrs Gina Blair	Master
Derek Mann	Senior Warden
Ald Sir David Wootton	Junior Warden
Ted Gradoselski BEM	Junior Warden
Mrs Annamarie Phelps CBE	Junior Warden

Cover Page:
 Embarkation of the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor Thomas Johnson from the Tower 1840. Colour lithograph by William Parrott (1813-1869)

Acknowledgement:
 The Master & Court would like to thank Craft Owning Freemen Barbara Wilson, Ben Bartlett and Doublelix Ltd for their help in the production of this report.

COURT MEMBERS

(Past Masters in order of seniority)

Mr R G Crouch MVO*
Mr A T Woods MBE*
Mr D Allen HMW*
Capt Sir Malcolm Edge KCVO*
Mr C J Livett HMB
Mr C G Newens*
Mr J S Allan*
Mr R E Lupton*
Sir Christopher Benson DL*
Mr A H Howard*
Mr B A Wheeler*
Mr K V Dwan OLY*
Mr R S Goddard
Mr D Gordon
Mr R D Clegg*
Mr P R Ludwig MVO
Mr J M Redmond
Mr R A Prentice
Mr J D Randall
Mr R L Springford
Mr J S E Salter HMW
Mr S J McCarthy HMW
Dr I Reid
Mr A Maynard HMW

COURT ASSISTANTS

(who have not passed the chair)

Mr S C Collins HMW #
Mr D U Powell #
Mr T E Keech HMW #
Mr T W Woods
Mr R D Turk
Mr G Hammond
Mr R J Manning
Mr G I Barnard

*Past Master Emeritus

indicates not moving forward at this time



HONORARY ASSISTANTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 12A 2020/21

Mr John R Potter (until October 2022)

Mr Richard G Turk (until July 2021)

Mr Brian Lamden (until January 2023)

Mr Darren J A Knight (until October 2020)

Mr David C Beard (until July 2022)

Mr Robert Constant (until April 2023)

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

General Purposes & Finance Committee:

Past Master J D Randall

Junior Warden Ald Sir David Wootton (Hon Treasurer)

Almshouses & Charities:

Past Master J S E Salter HMW

Apprenticeship & Training:

Court Assistant T E Keech HMW

Rowing and River Events:

Past Master S J McCarthy HMW

Library & Heritage:

Junior Warden Mrs A Phelps CBE

Kitchen Committee:

Court Assistant D U Powell

Membership Committee:

Junior Warden E L Gradosielski BEM

Examining Committee:

The Master

OTHER COMMITTEES 2019/2020

Watermen's Hall Preservation Trust:

Ladies' Committee: Mrs N Smallbone

Lighterage Committee:

Mr M Brookes

Communications Working Party:

Past Master J. M. Redmond

Watermens Hall Limited Directors:

Past Master, Jeremy Randall

Junior Warden, Alderman Sir David Wootton

The Master, Mrs Gina Blair

Senior Warden, Derek Mann

Trustees of the Company's Charities:

Past Master, John Salter HMW

Past Master, Jeremy Randall

The Master, Mrs Gina Blair

Junior Warden, Ted Gradosielski BEM

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPANY

Clerk: Colin Middlemiss

020 7929 7451

clerk@watermenshall.org

Assistant Clerk:

Carol Ratcliffe

020 7929 7456

carol@watermenshall.org

Training Administrator: Kelly Lesurf

020 7929 7452

training@watermenshall.org

Bargemaster:

Robert Coleman

07710 466040

robbie@silverfleet.co.uk

Training Officer:

Alex Hickman

07956 341482

alex@watermenshall.org

Rowing Officer:

Simon McCarthy

07968 593842

simon@simonmccarthy.com

Almshouses:

Martin Hackett

07970 485709

warden.watermens@outlook.com

www.watermenscompany.com

Court Calendar

2020/2021 Full details can be found on the Company's website: www.watermenscompany.com

All dates subject to change and/or cancellation depending on the progress of Covid-19

OCTOBER 2020

7th	Quarterly Court and Luncheon
9th	River Thames Lunch Club
22nd	Court of Bindings
23rd	Additional RTLC
TBA	Thomas Martyn Foundation Annual Service

NOVEMBER 2020

2nd	Rochester Bridge Trust All Saints Service
8th	Merchant Navy Memorial Service
9th	Rededication of the Garden of Remembrance at St Paul's
10th	Freemen's Connoisseur's Lunch
11th	Havengore Service of Remembrance
12th	John Henry Memorial Lunch
13th	River Thames Lunch Club
14th	Lord Mayor's Show
17th	Kitchen Committee
18th	Library and Heritage Committee
18th	Editorial Panel
19th	Freemen's and Partners' Dinner
20th	Additional RTLC
24th	Apprenticeship and Training Committee
24th	Rowing and River Events Committee
26th	Almshouses and Charities Committee
26th	Membership Committee

DECEMBER 2020

TBA	Vesta Scullers' Head
4th	Court Visit to Hastings
8th	Carol Service and Master's Christmas Reception
11th	River Thames Lunch Club
15th	Master and Wardens Meeting
15th	General Purposes and Finance Committee
17th	Freemen's Christmas Luncheon (1)
18th	Freemen's Christmas Luncheon (2)
21st	Freemen Christmas Luncheon (3)

CHRISTMAS

Hall closes at 1700hrs on 23rd December 2020
Reopens on 4th January 2021

JANUARY 2021

6th	Quarterly Court and Luncheon
11th	Court of Bindings
14th	New Freemen's Reception
20th	Burns Night Celebrations

FEBRUARY 2021

7th & 8th	Apprentices Sculling Weekend at London Regatta Centre
12th	River Thames Lunch Club
16th	Annual Dinner <i>(Subject to the approval of the Fishmongers' Court)</i>
26th	Journeyman Freemen's Dinner

MARCH 2021

1st	PQs Annual Luncheon
3rd	Freemen's Benefactors Lunch
4th	Library and Heritage Committee
9th	Apprenticeship and Training Committee
9th	Rowing and River Events Committee
10th	Kitchen Committee
12th	River Thames Lunch Club
16th	2020 Doggett's Coat and Badge Wager
18th	Almshouses and Charities Committee
18th	Membership Committee
19th	United Guilds Service and Luncheon
23rd	Master and Wardens Meeting
23rd	General Purposes and Finance Committee
25th	Freemen's Luncheon

EASTER HOLIDAY

Hall closes at 1700hrs on 1st April 2021

Reopens on 6th April 2021

APRIL 2021

3rd	The Boat Races
7th	Quarterly Court and Luncheon
9th	River Thames Lunch Club
23rd	Masters and Clerks Luncheon
27th	Freemen's St George's Luncheon

MAY 2021

TBA	Master's River Inspection
3rd	Early Spring Bank Holiday
8th	Tudor Pull
11th	Court Banquet
12th	Examining Committee
13th	Beating the Bounds <i>All Hallows by the Tower (Ascension Day)</i>
14th	River Thames Lunch Club
17th	Court of Bindings
28th	Master's Visit to Hastings
31st	Late Spring Bank Holiday

JUNE 2021

1st	Kitchen Committee
3rd	Library and Heritage Committee
3rd	Membership Committee
8th	Apprenticeship and Training Committee
8th	Rowing and River Events Committee
9th	Master, Wardens and Chairmen's Dinner
10th	Almshouses and Charities Committee
11th	River Thames Lunch Club
16th	Knollys Rose Ceremony and Luncheon <i>(subject to Lord Mayor's availability)</i>
21st	Examining Committee
22nd	Master and Wardens Meeting
22nd	General Purposes and Finance Committee
29th to 4th July	Henley Royal Regatta

JULY 2021

6th	Court of Admissions
7th	Quarterly Court and Luncheon
9th	River Thames Lunch Club
14th	Installation Court and Company Annual Service
20th	Port of London Challenge
TBA	Thames Barge Driving Trust Event

AUGUST 2021

31st	Bank Holiday
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Master's Report

It has been both an honour and a privilege to serve as Master of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen, particularly for me having been apprenticed to the Company by my Father in 1983. I am descended from a long line of both Waterman and Lighterman stretching back to the 18th Century.

My first job was for one of our Past Masters, Robert Crouch, on board passenger vessels, from Charing Cross Pier to Greenwich. In 1988, I became fully qualified to work as both a Waterman and Lightermen and so became a Journeyman Freeman of the Company.

In April 1989, with two partners, I formed a company to offer both sightseeing cruises and private hire vessels on the Thames. We still operate the same company today, albeit having grown quite considerably over the years having just celebrated our 30th year of business. With the outbreak of Covid-19, our 31st year is proving to be by far the most challenging of any of our previous years. Obviously, we are not alone in this, with many Companies on the Thames facing the same challenges, we remain determined that we will steer a steady course through the storm and emerge safely on the other side.

“With the outbreak of COVID-19, our 31st year is proving to be by far the most challenging of any of our previous years.”

2019/2020



Tony Maynard
Master 2019/2020

My wife, Sue Maynard, who is an integral part of the operation of our business, also comes from a similarly long line of Thames Waterman. We have three children, and our son Charlie is currently the Captain of MV Thomas Doggett, our newest passenger vessel with a capacity of 526 people.

In January 2018, I was appointed as one of the twenty-four Waterman to Her Majesty the Queen. These days this is a ceremonial role rather than the physical rowing task of years gone by. However, on special occasions, Royal Waterman can still be seen rowing Royal Barge Gloriana in their traditional red uniforms but perhaps, more frequently, can be seen acting as footman at State visits, Royal Weddings and Jubilees. At the Coronation, Royal Watermen walk behind the Queen's Barge Master guarding the Regalia when it is brought from Buckingham Palace to Westminster and returned; a reminder of the days when it was brought from the Tower of London by boat.

I became a Craft Owning Freeman of the Company in 2006 and was invited onto the Court in 2007. I have served on various committees during this time, more recently as Chairman of the Apprentice and Training Committee.

I have been very proud to have had the opportunity to represent the Company of Watermen and Lighterman as Master during 2019-2020.

Of course, my year has been rather different from my predecessor and probably of my successors with the pandemic of Covid-19 declared roughly halfway through the year, so it really has been a year of two halves. The first half was much more enjoyable. Past Masters of the Company tell of the reverence in which our Company is held for its connection with the trade of Watermen and Lightermen, its apprentices and the historic Doggett's Coat and Badge Wager. As Master, you are privileged to visit a wide range of other Companies, hear what is important to them and enjoy their hospitality. From Felt Makers, Barber Surgeons, Carpenters, Parish Clerks to Painters and Stainers and many more amazing Companies in between it was a truly once in a lifetime experience that I will cherish forever. The fact that we as a Company are able to produce Masters that were once Apprentices of the Company, like myself, with a working connection to our great River really impressed many of the other Company's and long may that continue.

The second half from late March onwards was very different, invitations quickly dried up as Halls closed and Hall staff were sent home to conduct their work. The Company had to become accustomed to online video conferencing using Zoom, a new technology that took a bit of getting used to.

“The fact that we as a Company are able to produce Masters that were once Apprentices of the Company, like myself, with a working connection to our great River really impressed many of the other Company's and long may that continue.”

As Master, you chair Committees and the Court which is much easier “face to face”. However, the Company made the best of the situation creating a Dolphin Group (Master, Senior Warden Master Elect, Chairman of GP and Finance, Hon. Treasurer and President of the Charities) meeting weekly on how to survive and steer the Company through the pandemic!

You are never alone as a Master, the Wardens, the Court are always there offering support and advice. It really is a team effort. I would like to thank my Wardens, fellow Court Members and the Committee Chairmen for all their hard work which makes the Masters’ role so much easier. I would also thank the staff at Watermen’s Hall for ensuring the business of the Company runs smoothly.

During my year, I had really wanted to continue to encourage young Journeymen and for that matter some of the more mature, shall we say, among them to become more involved with the Company. We held a number of meetings to see how this could be encouraged and to see what would interest them. I was particularly pleased to see the introduction of a successful dinner for Journeymen Freeman and their partners to attend, at Waterman’s Hall, some saying to me that they had not been back to visit the Hall since gaining their Freedoms.

It is, in my view, imperative that we continue on this path, it is vital that the Company keeps its connections with the Journeymen Freeman of the Company as they are the lifeblood of the Company and without them, the Company would lose its very reason for existence.

I would like to wish the incoming Master, the Court, and all of its Committees Chairmen a successful Company year for 2020-2021.



Financial Report

Financial Report on the Company's Activities in the Year 2019/2020

The accounts that you see published in this annual report are an extract from the consolidation of the audited accounts for two separate entities: Watermens Hall Ltd (the trading arm of the Company) and The Company of Watermen & Lightermen of the River Thames.

Watermens Hall Limited

(WHL)The current economic climate has been such that the City of London remains a very subdued marketplace for any corporate entertainment, which has traditionally been one of the major sources of our trading income. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the closure of the Watermen's Hall from mid-March. Most of the staff were furloughed and/or worked from home. The Hall is slowly opening with a staff presence a couple of days a week but 2019/2020 has been a challenging year. The company took advantage of the City of London Hospitality grant and also the cancellation of rates for livery halls, which has helped the bottom line.

During the year, the Freeman's room was upgraded thanks to funding from the PQ Club.

Our caterers Cook and Butler have continued to deliver excellent food and service during the year and hopefully their reputation within the City will attract new and repeat business once the Hall is able to re-open again.

The joint investment portfolio held by WHL and The Company showed a loss on the market value as pf 30th June thus reflecting the ongoing effects of the volatility in the marketplace. The portfolio was valued at £1,510,258 against a prior year valuation of £1,584,867. However, the current valuations do record signs of recovery.

The joint cash position of the Company and WHL is £232,439 which the Court of the Company and the Board of Watermen's Hall Limited are confident will permit both identifies to weather the current coronavirus storm.

Both the Company and WHL have strong balance sheet reserves.

Income and Expenditure for the year ending 30th June 2019

	WHL	Company of W&L	Totals	Prior Year
Income	184,794	184,413	369,207	315,599
Cost of sales	(27,122)		(27,122)	(31,188)
Gross profit	157,672	184,413	342,085	284,411
Indirect costs	(152,022)	(191,322)	(343,344)	(376,594)
Investment Income	26,718	3,374	30,092	31,734
Profits on disposal of investments	5,688	721	6,409	(2,876)
Unrealised (loss)/profit on disposal of investments	(48,999)	(6,211)	(55,210)	19,872
Depreciation	(59,727)		(59,727)	(53,450)
Profit/(loss) for the year:	(70,670)	(9,025)	(79,695)	(96,903)

Balance sheet

	WHL	Company of W&L	Totals	Prior Year
Investments	1,340,353	169,905	1,510,258	1,584,867
Other assets				
Freehold property	466,310		466,310	473,268
Plant and machinery	107,503		107,503	134,117
Other fixed asseets	76,110	70,320	146,430	99,780
Currents assets	1,990,276	240,225	2,230,501	2,292,032
Stocks	8,510		8,510	10,661
Debtors	39,192	88,803	127,995	101,231
Cash at bank	126,748	105,691	232,439	266,317
Creditors	(158,326)	(62,520)	(220,846)	(211,947)
Net current assets	16,124	131,974	148,098	166,262
total assets less liabilities	2,006,400	372,199	2,378,599	2,458,294
Capital reserves				
Profit and loss account	2,006,400	372,199	2,378,599	2,458,294

Reports

of Committee Activities for 2019/2020

General Purposes & Finance Committee Chairman: *Past Master Jeremy Randall*

Previous Annual Reports have not included any reference to the General Purposes & Finance Committee (invariably referred to as the GP) so these notes are intended to make good that deficiency by explaining the role of the GP and its activities during the last year.

The GP is the Executive Committee of the Court. Among its many functions, it coordinates the work of the Standing Committees, is responsible for the preparation and execution of a business plan to promote the Company's objectives and ensure the prosperity of the Company, to maintain the Company's Standing Orders, approve the recruitment of staff, set the guidelines and monitoring of the Company's investments and oversees the framing of the policies which will be presented to the Court for approval. The GP's membership comprises the Master and Wardens, the Immediate Past Master, the Chairmen of the Standing Committees and Working Parties and four volunteers from the Court. The chairman is a Past Master who is elected by the Court for up to two three-year terms to ensure continuity; currently the post is held by Past Master Jeremy Randall.

Many of the topics considered in the last year by the General Purposes & Finance Committee are covered in the detailed reports of the Standing Committees that follow. The Committee did look in detail at the invitation from the Thames Skills Academy to co-operate on assisting apprentices with their training during the pandemic. The Committee agreed to co-operate as a temporary measure.

This summary highlights some of the other topics which the GP considered at its four meetings (two online).

The GP is also the Company's Finance Committee receiving monthly management reports of income and expenditure. The Honorary Treasurer reports at each meeting. In the light of the pandemic, the Committee spent considerable time looking at cost savings, particularly staff costs. The Almshouses and Charities Committee receives similar reports on the Charities but GP takes an overall responsibility for finance.

Aside from the regular business and the monitoring of the financial situation, the main concern of the Committee was the recruitment of the new Clerk. To that end, a small working party was approved by the GP Committee which would comprise the Master, the Senior Warden, the President, the Chairman of the GP and one independent Craft Owning Freeman. A professional recruitment company, Berwick,

with extensive experience of recruiting in the “Livery sector” was retained – but further progress was soon stalled because of the Covid-19 lock down. As a result, the Clerk kindly agreed to delay his retirement by six months to July 2021.

The GP Committee monitored the refurbishment of the Freeman’s Room which was under the watchful eye of Court Assistant Annamarie Phelps. It also reviewed a proposed follow-on project to install three stained glass windows to mark the Company’s 500th anniversary: a Doggett’s Winner, a Company Bargemaster and a Queen’s Waterman. Estimates had been obtained and some pledges made but Covid-19 has inevitably delayed further progress.

The Committee saw the appointment of Junior Warden Sir David Wootton as the Committee’s Vice Chairman and Honorary Treasurer and the re-appointment of Robert Coleman as the Company’s Bargemaster. The Committee also oversaw the appointment of the Revd Katherine Hedderly as the Company’s Honorary Chaplain.

As mentioned above, the last two meetings of the GP were conducted on-line and one of the first issues was to approve a revision of the Standing Orders to allow such ‘virtual’ meetings, and those of the Court, to be legitimate. The Committee also approved the formation of the Dolphin Group, referred to in the Master’s Report. This Group, comprising the Master, Wardens, Chairman of the GP and the Clerk, has met on-line each week to respond to the rapidly changing circumstances of the Covid -19 pandemic. Their reports were received and approved by the GP Committee.

The Committee proposed to adopt a Diversity Policy suggested the Corporation of London’s Livery Committee. This was subsequently approved by the Court.

Almshouses and Charities Committee: Chairman and President: *Past Master John Salter*

The Trustees have been busy looking after the Almshouses at Hastings as well as supporting the training programme for apprentices.

During the year, four of the bungalows at Hastings required a full ‘make over’ which included not only new kitchens and bathrooms but improvements to the patios. It is the aim of the Trustees that all the bungalows and grounds comply not only with current legislation but provide safe and secure homes for all on site. Major works to the roads and paths, as well as upgrading the street lighting, took place this year.

The Trustees made two official visits to the site as usual, including a very successful Christmas luncheon held at the Community Centre. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus outbreak the visit scheduled for May had to be cancelled.

During the coronavirus outbreak the Trustees implemented strict guidelines to protect all those on site and to try and keep the site as safe as possible, including a lockdown on the Community Centre with the exception of the Laundry and the Library. It says much for the spirit on the site that this was excepted by all and the guidelines kept to. The Trustees wish to thank the Warden at Hastings, Mr Martin Hackett, for his sterling work during these difficult times.

The Trustees have formed a Working Party with a brief to look at the site overall and to see if additional bungalows could be added to the current housing stock. This is an exercise to try and increase the longevity of the site for future watermen and lightermen as well as providing additional accommodation.

At the time of writing three properties have just finished being refurbished and come September these will become homes for two watermen and one private tenant. Some of the Watermen and Lightermen living at Watermen's Close are 'watermen tenants' choosing to rent a bungalow by way of a short hold tenancy. If you would like to know more about this the Assistant Clerk is the person to contact.

The Charity provides financial support in the region of £90,000 for training and education of apprentices and, due to the success of this, the Training Officer, Craft Owning Freeman Alex Hickman, has now been joined by Jamie Locke and Nick Tudor to assist with training days at the Hall. Alex and Jamie are supported by Kelly Lesurf as Training Administrator. The training days have proved to be very successful and popular with the apprentices and trainees. Due to the Hall being closed because of the lockdown, study days have been held by zoom.

The Charity, which is responsible for the preservation of the Georgian Hall, continued that support when needed.

The Charity continues to provide Hall tours for the public during the year and it is pleasing that the demand for these continues to grow. Regrettably, due to the lockdown, we are unable to provide these tours at the current time. As in previous years we will be participating in the Open House weekend in September.

Company's Poores Fund

The Company's Poores Fund pays Watermen and Lightermen and/or their widows/ers a 'Christmas bonus' each year. This year we were able to increase the amount paid, partly thanks to more Freeman paying quarterage. The Charity's main sources of income are quarterage from its Freeman and dividend income. We certainly hope to encourage more Freeman to pay quarterage to assist those who find themselves in less fortunate circumstances.

I have enjoyed my second year as President and am very much looking forward to the remainder of my term.

I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their support during the year and also the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

Apprentices & Training Committee: Chairman: *Court Assistant Tim Keech*

The year 2019/2020 has been a challenging time for the Company and its apprentices. The onset of the Covid 19 outbreak and the restrictions that have gone with it have severely affected our training activities. Until the lockdown in March, 16 young people had been bound and a further 3 signed up in May using the Zoom format.

On the BML front, only 2 candidates remain to be re-examined from the group that were put forward last November. This is due to the fact, like many organisations, the MCA closed owing to the pandemic. Recently, they have begun examining for Officer of the Watch on-line and hope to return to oral examinations in 6-8 weeks' time.

However, there remains uncertainty regarding Practical Boat Tests as the issue of distancing needs to be addressed. In summary, there have been 12 passes during the last 12 months, 8 in 2019 and 4 so far this year.

As many of you are aware, the Company began its own programme of BML training in 2016, led by our training officer and his small but dedicated team of approved instructors. This initiative has proved popular with the apprentices and has recently recorded the significant milestone of 50 passes since its inception. My sincere thanks go to Alex Hickman, Jamie Locke, Louis Pettipher and Nick Tudor for their hard work. They have continued to support our young people throughout the crisis and are currently providing on-line sessions which, they hope, will amount to around 20 per month until all restrictions are lifted.

Despite the compulsory purchase of the BML Training Pack, numbers have remained healthy with many classes oversubscribed. The Company had supported a Level 2 Trailblazer Qualification, specifically designed for deck work. Unfortunately, the TSA feels unable to support this idea at present. In January, Katy Ware from the MCA, visited the Hall and took part in a River trip hosted by the Company.

Discussions have been taking place recently regarding the possibility of closer ties with the TSA to offset the impact of the Covid crisis on training. It would involve a pooling of resources between the two bodies and, in this instance, be a temporary arrangement as the Company is keen to ensure that its future options are not compromised. Talks have been described as friendly but difficult as each organisation has a somewhat different approach. A small group comprising Past Master Redmond, Senior Warden Derek Mann and our training officer have been

involved in preliminary discussions. A further plan has emerged to combat current restrictions by contacting all apprentices and employers to discover what is needed going forward and there will be a press release to accompany this exercise.

There has been a feeling for some time that the Company, with all the resources and skill sets available among its membership, could establish itself as a formidable training provider. A working party has been established to draft a business plan. Our 3 trainers have completed the RYA Powerboat 2 course and are awaiting Instructor training which will enable them to deliver a wide variety of RYA qualifications. This is the first step in a new, bold, and exciting future for the Company, its apprentices, and the future provision of training.

Towards the end of 2019, the training officer produced a paper on the future vision on training influenced by the time he spent on secondment to the TSA. It contained a review of the current situation, put forward a number of options outlining the future and co-operation with various training providers including the option explored in the last paragraph and took care to put forward the case for CPD and how a programme could work. The paper received a muted response from some quarters but the section on CPD was broadly welcomed, particularly by the MCA and PLA. The committee has been looking into how CPD could be incorporated into forming part of a revalidation system for the purposes of BML renewal and to plug any competency gaps that have become evident since 2007.

Honorary Court Assistant Robert Constant has, for the last few months, been the Company's eyes and ears at the PLA's Harbour Revision Order discussions. There have been several contentious issues that have come to light that Robert has dealt with including a problem with the removal of the terms Waterman and Lighterman from the text. He has also asked for clarification on Clause 21 which deals with charges levied on freight movements and changes to the future appointment of Harbour Masters. The HRO was submitted to the MMO on April the 6th with a request that the consultation does not begin until all the restrictions are lifted. Robert is also our representative on the Freight Transport Association and has been taking part in discussions about Freeports. These are secure customs areas located at ports or places nearby where business can take place within a country's borders but without local customs rules. Duty is not applied until goods leave the Freeport and enter the domestic market. There are also no charges due on freight that is transhipped for export. Under current proposals there have been 10 sites listed. The deadline for responses was the 13th of July.

HMRC have just issued consultation documents on the abolition of red diesel and replacing it with a greener option. This would result in a price hike of around 47p/litre and although most of the cost could be reclaimed it would still result in significant cash flow problems. The consultation closes in April of 2022.

Recently the Company submitted a letter to the City Planning Department in support of an application to reinstate Swan Lane Pier for both freight and passenger use. There has been a pier on this site for almost 400 years. Considerable opposition has come from residents on the opposite side of the river. The closing date for responses was the 13th of July.

As many of you will have read in the press, the Rotherhithe pedestrian and cyclist bridge has been shelved. However, there is a desire to install a passenger crossing of some kind and the latest idea is an electric ferry. The consultation has started, and construction could begin as early as the spring of 2021.

The consultation on the Lower Thames Crossing ended on April the 2nd. The plan is to run a tunnel from the A2, just east of Gravesend to the M25 by way of East Tilbury and Thurrock. There is a great deal of local opposition. There is a consultation ongoing on the design phase of the plan.

Borehole operations are continuing at the intended site of the Silvertown Tunnel.

It is at this point in my report that I would like to thank the Charities for their continued support of the work of this committee. The grant of £55,000 has been of enormous help during the last 12 months. Most of the money has been spent on staff costs, membership fees i.e. TSA MSC and FTA and the BML study packs.

The only outside training event not to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic was the annual draw off walk which took place on 15th November with 25 apprentices who, as well as walking the Thames Richmond to Teddington, listened to a talk by Mark Edwards on wherries and skiffs. There is a possibility that a trip will take place in the autumn and a chance for a sailing barge voyage at about the same time. The Company will keep everyone informed of any news.

Earlier in the year, the Company published a letter to all Journeymen and Apprentices on the dangers of drug and alcohol use in the workplace. The committee felt that it was high time that the Company made its position clear and demonstrated

support to employers who are obligated to put measures in place by way of their SMS. The letter was met with approval from both the MCA and PLA.

Talks are continuing with the MCA to seek a compromise on the Safety Requirements for Older Vessels. Court Assistant Richard D Turk has been monitoring the progress of these discussions on the Company's behalf.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for their contribution this year and wish every success to those who are moving on to pastures new. To our Immediate Past Master, Tony Maynard, for his support and good grace and to our new Master, Mrs Gina Blair, be assured of this committee's help and support for the coming year.

APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES BOUND BOUND ON 13TH JANUARY 2020

Rudi William Hale	
Pascal Papis	Master: Raymond Julian
Oliver Robert Gaynes Lee	Master: Richard D Turk
Tomas James McGrath	Master: Joseph Hammond
Jacob Anthony Samuel Lane	Master: Thomas de Wit
Charlie Lee Horton	Master: Zakary Williams
Ronald Terence William Richardson	
William John Coombs	
Louie James Day	
James Ryan White	Master: Jeff Powell
Joseph Howlett	
Axel Kevin Sparks	Master: Aaron Sparks
Frankie John Irving	Master: Aaron Lee Wynn

18 May 2020 – via Zoom

Billy Lee	Master: Joseph Mason-Lee
Joseph Francis McFadyen	Master James David Berry
Harry Edmund Robert Tutt	Master: Thomas de Wit

Rowing and River Events Committee: Chairman: Immediate Past Master Simon McCarthy

The Thames Barge Driving Trust's (a charitable Trust independent of the Company) main Thames Barge Driving Race had been held on Saturday 6 July 2019, with the Company's Barge "Apprentice Lighterman" coming first in a time of 1-38-08 crewed by Louis Pettipher (cox) Jude McGrane, James Berry with apprentices Andrew Stones and Oliver Scott. The Trust planned to hold its Apprentice Barge Drive on the 9 May 2020

The Company entered the "Jim Holt" in the Port of London Challenge on 29th July 2019. However, the Company, the Water Conservators and Trinity House were all disqualified at the start for failing to adhere to the starter's instructions.

The Company entered the "Jim Holt" for the Admiral of the Port Challenge on 13th September 2019 winning the event. The crew were Bargemaster and cox, Robbie Coleman, passenger our Master Dr Iain Reid and apprentice Charlie Irwin, oarsmen: Craft-Owning Freeman Dan Bartlett, J.P. O'Donnell, Doggett's Winner Alfie Anderson and Harry Joynes.

The Henley Sculling Weekend was held on 12/13 October 2019 in very wet weather with 11 apprentices and 24 Freeman and guests at the dinner at Leander Club, which was also attended by Leander President, Craft-Owning Freeman, Mike Sweeney. This year's Doggett's winner, Patrick Keech and 2015 winner, Louis Pettipher assisted to encourage the young apprentices. Max Carter-Miller won the Ben Woollacott Trophy and Scarlett Barnett-Smith was the most improved apprentice. They would receive their awards on 28 January 2020 at the Doggett's Emblem Dinner.



Lord Mayor's Progress on Gloriana on Saturday, 28th September, a City of London event, was cancelled.

The Company had plans to install three stained glass windows in the newly renovated Freeman's Room to mark the Company's 500th anniversary. Individual windows would feature a Company Bargemaster, a Doggett's Coat & Badge Winner and a Queen's Waterman.

The year ended with the Covid-19 pandemic which caused all events to be cancelled or postponed from the second half of March through to July when the Company's year ended. The Doggett's Organising Working Party decided to hold Doggett's 2020 Wager on 16 March 2021. The 2021 race would then be held on the 8 September 2021. The draw for the 2020 race was planned for January 2021 and would take place at Watermen's Hall.

Library and Heritage Committee: Chairman: *Court Assistant Mrs Annamarie Phelps CBE*

The Library and Heritage Committee have continued to review the collection, propose additions and progress the conservation and restoration of key objects. Many significant gifts have been received by or promised to the collection including the papers of the late Craft Owing Freeman Maldwyn Drummond.

Two key focus areas this year have been the preparation of the sixth volume of the Company's history to cover the period from approximately 1921-1980. This work is being overseen by a small sub-committee, chaired by Past Master Richard Goddard. Jon Temple, who wrote the previous volume, has been retained to research and prepare volume six.

Past Mistress Irene Randall has collated and delivered valuable oral histories from our most senior members to preserve their memories, many of which will help inform the new volume as well as provide an otherwise lost history for future generations.

A second focus, led by Craft Owing Freeman Mike Hendry, has been to make the available index of the Company's library to help encourage its use and to promote the Company. The index is now available to Company Members on the website and we plan to commence work on digitising the photographic collection to help identify individuals and events which may support the research into the Company's history and promote the collection and Hall.

Past Master Emeritus Bob Crouch is supporting Craft Owing Freeman Brian Richardson to complete his work on the Company's backboards and a small booklet, in line with the company's other publications, will be published in due course. A successful second adopt-a-book scheme, to pay for the restoration of fragile books from the library, has been fully subscribed.

Over the course of the summer the Freeman's Room had been refurbished and committee members were involved in cleaning and returning the silver and objects to the display cases. A new selection of prints has been selected to be hung in the hallway between the Court and Freeman's Rooms, and the sweep is to be hung above the display cases in due course. The Covid-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of the June meeting and a number of projects have been put on pause, but we hope to restart our work as soon as we are able to use the Hall again. A planned development of the waterman's cupboard in the basement to house the models was postponed due to costs.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their dedication and hard work throughout the year to ensure we preserve the company's heritage and history in traditional and innovative ways. Particular thanks must go to Julian Ebsworth who stood down this year after serving the Committee for 15 years. His contribution to the Committee has been immense and his enthusiasm for the Company's history infectious.

Kitchen Committee: Chairman: *Court Assistant David Powell*

If ever the footballing cliché, a game of two halves was appropriate, this is the year! For 9 months, all appeared rosy as we built on the hard work of the office team and Cook and Butler. Based on comments received the events staged were reaching new heights. I would particularly mention the Connoisseurs Lunch in September when Jean-Paul, the chef, surpassed himself with a 7-course tasting menu accompanied by 6 glorious wines and he may well have outshone himself with the Valentine Day lunch, as part of the River Thames Lunch Club.

In a very crowded and diminishing market, outside business was holding steady leading to cautious optimism for the future backed up with a superb fresh look to the Hall.

Then came lockdown and not a single event at the Hall for the rest of the Company year.

In the spirit of partnership, which is how we see our relationship with Cook and Butler, their monthly income to the Company was waived from March to help them survive through this uniquely challenging period.

Mark Grove and the Hall team have done a lot of work on devising a Covid Safe regime for as and when events can restart, increased hygiene, one way movement flow, social distancing at table etc. etc. so the Hall is ready to start welcoming back Freemen and their guests when government requirements permit.

On a very sad note, the Covid lockdown has resulted in the very difficult decision that current and near term level of events dictates that there is no requirement for Martin Laws' position as Hall Manager and therefore Martin has been made redundant. I wish to place on record very grateful thanks to Martin for all he has done for the Company and building the reputation of the Watermen's Hall. His hard work and dedication were always accompanied by a cheery, 'can do' attitude. Thank you, Martin, for all you have done and the very best wishes for whatever the future holds for you.

Membership Committee: Chairman: *Junior Warden Sir David Wootton 2019-2020, Junior Warden Ted Gradosielski BEM 2020-2021*

The Membership Committee interviews all applicants applying to become a Craft Owning Freeman of the Company, and then makes a recommendation to the General Purposes and Finance Committee which then goes to the Court for final approval. During the year 2019/2020 The Membership Committee interviewed twelve candidates who had links with either the Company and/or the River and who have shown great interest in being part of the Watermen's Company. Those interviewed came from quite diverse backgrounds and indeed covered a wide age range and interests. The Court admitted 9 new Craft Owning Freemen in the year.

Due to Coronavirus, our Committee Meeting in March was held via Zoom which proved to be a very successful method of interviewing.

A very important part of the interviewing process is to make all candidates aware of the expectation of giving to the Company’s charities by way of a donation by standing order and gift aiding this as this permits the Charity to claim back the relevant gift aid from HMRC. The donor has the option to ring fence their donation to one of the charity’s objectives, training and education, preservation of the Georgian Hall if they so wish. In addition, the Committee seeks to make all those admitted play a part in the Company’s life. Either by looking to join some of the Committee or to offer their skills and contacts to assist the Company.

Craft Owning Freeman Alex Hickman (the Training Officer) joined the Committee some years ago and has played a vital role in trying to attract more of the working watermen to become involved in the Company.

During the year, a second dinner for Journeymen Freemen and their partners was held at the Hall which was very well supported. This is planned to be an annual event.

The Membership Committee has been directed by the Company to look to increase the overall number of Craft Owning Freemen to 400 and as at the end of June 2019 we have some 385.

The Membership Committee has been attractively looking at welcoming younger members of the River Community to support the Company and to come and play their part in the development and future of the Company as well as enjoy its hospitality. Some of the events that had been planned to take part had to be put on hold due to coronavirus.

However, it is hoped to build these into the new Company calendar once we are able to open the Hall.

Craft Owning Freemen admitted up to July 2020

JULY COURT 2019

None

OCTOBER COURT 2019

Alexandre Demetriou

JANUARY COURT 2020

David Leonard Jarrad

Dr Graham Fraser Collier

Mary Winifred Barrow

Alexander James Tribick

Geraldine Stephanie Bil

APRIL COURT 2020 – Via Zoom

None

JUNE COURT 2020 – via Zoom

The Revd. Canon Dr Robin Ward

Peter John Cox

James Frank Bryan

Ladies Committee: Chairman: Mrs Nicky Smallbone

In a year that has been somewhat unusual I want to start on a positive note. The Ladies Committee was able to hold two highly successful events raising over £5,000 for the Company.

The first was in October 2019. Steve Woollacott did us a great deal with his boat, so we were able to have a super evening cruise and party. Good food and lots of fun and dancing, a fabulous raffle and even the weather was kind, what more could we want!

Our Christmas Lunch again proved to be immensely popular. It has now become a bit of a tradition to have our very own Sweet Harmony sing us in to sit



down for lunch and then encourage us all to join in after lunch with festive songs and carols. They did not disappoint, and several encores were performed. Thank you, Linda Constant, for organising the ladies and the songs. As always, I must thank my amazing Committee, including the new Mistress, Sue Maynard for providing such special raffle prizes and all the wonderful hats, jewellery, and accessories for the pre-loved sale.

We were due to have a Committee meeting in March to finalise our next event which was going to be a St George's Day lunch aboard one of the Master's boats. By the end of February some of us had become a bit reluctant to travel into the Hall, little did we know that in a few weeks no one would be travelling anywhere. St George's Day turned out to be a beautiful day and with all the preparations that had already been done, it would have been a great day. Hopefully, we will be lucky and be able to try again for next year.

At the time of writing I do not know when the next event will be, but please be assured that the Ladies' Committee will be raring to get back into organising events and having some fun: they are great and I've missed them all these last few months.

The Lighterage Committee: **Chairman: *Journeyman Freeman*** ***Mark Brookes***

The Lighterage Committee continued to support the training objectives of the Company in the latter part of 2019. The social events up to the end of 2019 were all well attended as usual. 2019 saw Mark Brookes take up the post of Chairman of the Committee for a second time. It was also during 2019 that the Committee was able to finance the upgrade of the Training Officer's computer. The only apprentice

training event unaffected by the pandemic outbreak was the Teddington to Richmond Draw-Off walk on 15th November 2019 where 25 apprentices enjoyed a talk by Mark Edwards at Richmond on the history of Skiffs and Wherries.

2020 was to be a significant year for training activities with another Thames Barge trip planned for the spring and two apprentices booked to sail on the Tall Ship "Morgenster" in the early summer. The Covid pandemic put paid to these events as well as the apprentices barge driving race, the barge driving trust's barge race and at least two local knowledge familiarisation trips.

The Committee were able to find a winter lay-over berth for the "Apprentice Lighterman" at the Colliers Yard inside Isleworth Ait and is confident of being able to re-introduce single oar sculling to the training programme in the near future.

Communications Working Party: **Chairman: *Past Master John Redmond***

The Committee has met twice physically last year and conducted its last business by e-mail correspondence.

The members were the Master, Tony Maynard, the Chairman of the General Purposes and Finance Committee, Past Master Jeremy Randall, and Honorary Court Assistant Darren Knight. As in previous years all of the Watermen's Hall staff attend the Working party and it is only thanks to their advice and input that progress can be made in communicating with our Freeman and the outside world.

Last year we completed the update of our communication strategy and it was approved by the Court in October.

During the year until March 2020 regular mailshots were emailed out and seemed to be well received and throughout the year every effort was made to keep our social media outlets populated with news and activities. This work was obviously impacted by the furloughing of some staff and the others confined to working from home. Notwithstanding the difficulties, our Facebook page, our group pages and our Twitter posts were updated from time to time.

The Company shop started a partnership with Ascot Promotions which offered good quality Company branded clothing and early feedback was excellent with the promise of more to come.

One important piece of work that was identified was a need to update and simplify our internal databases and work on this started before the shutdown and will hopefully be quick to restart.

As usual we are always on the lookout for any volunteer who might help us in our task and our door is always open.

My thanks go to all of the working party members and in particular to the staff at the Hall who carry the burden of most, if not all, of the work!

Finally, my thanks to the Master for his attendance and input during his busy and in the end, a turbulent year.

Report of the Fundraiser for the Watermen's Company Charities: Honorary Court Assistant: *David Beard*

Although unexpectedly interrupted by the Covid19 pandemic, through the generosity of Freeman, a total of £7,500 has been raised for Company funds over the past twelve months. Regrettably, however, the lockdown caused some high-profile events to be cancelled but it is envisaged these will be reinstated

as/when possible. Such cancellations included the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Luncheon due to have been held at the Guildhall on 2nd April; a Tour of the Old Bailey and Reception, scheduled for 13th May; The Watermen's/Inland Water Transport Squadron Dinner scheduled for the 25th June and, finally, the Summer Fish Supper at the Kitchen to have been held on 24th July. On top of these major cancellations, it should be noted that in recent months, the Freeman's lunches have also become a victim of the pandemic and along with them the loss of revenue the 'envelopes at table' would normally have produced. Yet despite the above cancellations, it has nevertheless been an exciting year as Company Fundraiser.

In October, the Company held the Freeman's Benefactors Lunch, to commemorate previous Benefactors. The Lunch could be subsidised from interest gained from the capital of past donations." This was then further followed up by the writing of a letter sent out in January to all Freeman inviting them to consider becoming Benefactors. This letter was accompanied by a guide to legacies, a Watermen's produced booklet. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who responded in such a positive manner as a result.

Jumping to December, Freeman Philip Otto generously donated three private trips on Thames Limo Taxi. One by one these were auctioned at the three Company Christmas Lunches reaching a collective total of £2,810.00.

At Company functions held during December, Freeman, family and friends had the opportunity to pay £20 to enter a draw for 13 tickets available to attend the Thames River Police Museum at Wapping. This raised £3,700 out of which £250 was paid to a Police Charity prior to our visit to the

Museum early February. Having previously been drawn from the hat by the Master, the winners spent a delightful evening listening to Curator Rob Jeffries telling some wonderful tales of the River Police and their work. He was further remembered by some of those Freemen present from his days as a serving River Police Officer. A few jars and some more jaw in the Captain Kidd next door rounded off a memorable evening.

Despite lockdown approaching, we managed to squeeze one more event into the calendar and visited Sands Films at Wapping on 11th March. As the area ‘closed down’, the intended smorrebrod dinner afterwards to have been held at the Norwegian Church became a fish and chip supper at the Mayflower Pub. Equally, with one of our two intended films short films suddenly unavailable, we watched as planned a 1940’s film called ‘City of Ships’ made in the London docks at that time but followed by a substitute film called ‘Shipyards’. This was a classic 1935 British documentary showing the meticulous assembly of the ocean liner RMS Orion at Vickers Armstrong in Barrow-in-Furness dock yard, Lancashire. (Looking at the way red hot rivets were thrown to the riveters, health and safety clearly had not been in existence at that time!) This event raised £150.

Finally following the success of the small group’s visit to the River Police in Wapping earlier in the year, during lockdown the Curator Rob Jeffries once again joined The Company, this time on-line for a ‘Zoom’ not for profit talk again telling tales of the Thames River Police. Some 42 heads were counted as having joined the presentation, most having a glass of wine in their hands it would have seemed!

Royal Benevolent and Educational Fund for Watermen and Lightermen

The Trustees wish to acknowledge and thank the following for their donations and covenants to the Charity during 2019/20:

All Hallows by the Tower	Kirone Limited
John Allan	Darren Knight
John Armitage	Malcolm Knight
Mary Barrow	The Ladies’ Committee
Tony Bull	J Lees
Julian Cartwright	The Lighterage Committee
Sarah Clarke	Michael Mainelli
Jeremy Dale	David Packman
Ian Davies	Gary Painter
John Deverson	Susan Perry-Whitehead
William Everard	Geoffrey Probert
Andrew Fenemore-Jones	R J Marine
Richard Fletcher	Chris Ramsey
Alan French	Tim Sanders
Richard Goddard	Edward Sargent
M Goodwin	Alex Schatunowski
Linda Hanbury	Seageant Bros
Peter Hill	T R Seargent
Andrew Howard	Peter Stewart
James Hurley	Sundry
Ted Jackson	Philip Wake
Jeffrey Jenkinson	Daniel Walker
Terry Keech	

**Freemen paying Quarterage
(which assists the Watermen’s
Charity in training apprentices and
looking after Journeymen Freemen
who fall on hard times)**

D Arnold	T Lee
B A Bailey	C Livett
W L Barry	P Ludwig
B L W Battie	B J Madden
D Beard	Maracom Ltd
J Berry	J J Maw
C Briggs	S Metcalf
S Burgess	D T Miller
P V Cole	J A Napier
R J Cook	D A Newcomb
M S Copland	D P Newcomb
A S Coppock	T G Obee
M Dewar	D Packman
A P Down	C W Phillips
L Ennis-Goatham	C E S Prout
R K Falconer	D C Pullen
B Folkard	G W Quinlan
J Furrents	G E Roberts
R Goatham	M J Roche
P Harper	P Roland
T C Harvey	D Rolles
A R Hastings	E Shawyer
M Hendry	L A E W Sherritt
A M Hickman	Capt A L Smith
P Hill	Mr and Mrs Smith
W J Honeyman	R C Stevens
J Horlick	M C Williams
J Hough	R C T Woodley
J Keeshan	

**Company of Watermen and Lightermen -
Voluntary payments**

James Duncan	William Woodward Fisher
Darren Knight	and to all other Freemen
John Morrell	making voluntary
John Redwood	payments
David Shove	



Postquincennial Fund:

After the winding up of the 500th Anniversary appeal in 2016, many members of the 500th Club were keen to continue their support and involvement in the Company and so a new, “Post 500” scheme was established: the Postquincennial Fund (otherwise known as the “PQs”). All regular subscribers to this fund are invited to a special, annual PQs lunch each Spring when a vote is taken on how the accumulated fund should be used to enhance the Hall.

The fourth Annual lunch was held on Monday 3rd February 2020 and the decision, proposed by Craft Owing Freeman Robert Moore, was to contribute the balance of the fund to completing the redecoration and refurbishment of the Freeman’s Room. The PQ members were unanimous in congratulating Court Assistant Annamarie Phelps on the excellent results which had been achieved with their contribution of £45000, accumulated over the previous four years. The Master, on behalf of the Court and the Company, thanked all PQ subscribers for their generosity.

At the end of June 2020, the fund stood at £3,696 and had 70 subscribers who contributed at least £180pa, usually in monthly standing orders. Craft Owing Freeman Sinead Hayes and Robert Moore have kindly volunteered to represent the contributors in selecting the future projects and they will be happy to answer any questions. Any Freeman wishing to subscribe to the fund should contact the Assistant Clerk.

Those currently subscribing are:

Geoff Adams	Mike Hendry
John Allan	Ted Jackson
Donald Anderson	Darren Knight
Ashley Babcock	Brian Lamden
Paul Baldwin	Peter Laverick
Graham Barnard	Alan Lee Williams
David Beard	Chris Livett
Sir Christopher Benson	Alan Marsh
Lynne Berry	Chris Martin
Geraldine Bil	Tony Maynard
Stephen Bil	Dean McGlinchey
Gina Blair	Charlotte McGlinchey
Mark Blandford-Baker	Tessa Millar
Tony Braithwaite	Robert Moore
Diane Burley	Richard Nemeth
Pauline Churcher	David Newman
Sean Colgan	David Packman
Graham Collier	Peter Perry
Robert Crouch	Annamarie Phelps
Peter Crowley	David Powell
Ian Davies	Ivan Pratt
John Doble	Robert Prentice
Alan Down	John Redmond
James Dowson	John Redwood
Julian Ebsworth	Dr Iain Reid
Andrew Fenemore Jones	Brian Richardson
John Fletcher	John Salter
Philip Foster	Tim Sanders
John French	Eric Sawyer
John Furlonger	David Suchet
Richard Goddard	Mark Telfer
Ted Gradosielski	David Thomas
Greg Gregory Jones	Philip Thomas
George Hammond	William Thomson
Jim Harlow	Richard G Turk
Sinead Hayes	Alan Woods

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Deceased

The company has been notified of the following deaths in the year 2019-2020

Craft Owning Freeman

John William Deaton Everett Fries

Tim Hall

Capt Kim Milnes

John A Pleace

Peter David Thatcher Roberts

Michael A Woolf Fries

Craft Owning And Journeyman Freeman

Gerald Kenneth GADD

Journeyman Freeman

Cornelius Henry George Andrews

Alfred John Brooker

Alfred Ronald Davey

Geoffrey Neville Eyers

David Thomas Hopson

David Howard

John James Hughes

Terence Mccarthy

John Henry Montague

Martin Samuel Spencer

John Melvyn White

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The GDPR updates data protection to reflect the digital age. This also brings in new rights for 'data subjects' and new obligations for any organisation acting as processors or controllers.

The Company of Watermen and Lightermen, Minorities Holdings Limited and Royal Benevolent and Educational Fund are registered with the Commissioner's Office as Controllers.

Copies of the Annual Report are only made available to the Freeman of the Company.

If you do not wish your information to be published in future editions of the Annual Report, please advise the Assistant Clerk on carol@watermenshall.org

Watermen's Hall

16 - 18 St Mary-At-Hill, London, EC3R 8EF

The Company of Watermen was established by Act of Parliament in 1555 to regulate Watermen and Wherryman carrying passengers by boat under oars on the river Thames. The present Hall dates back to 1780, and is the only original Georgian hall in the City of London

Watermen's Hall was designed by William Blackburn and is a perfect example of eighteenth-century domestic architecture, with Parlour and Court Room.

The Hall was extended in 1983 to include a larger dining and meeting facility, the Freeman's Room, which blends in perfect harmony with the intimate atmosphere of the rest of the Hall.

All this provides a suite of rooms that are both elegant and adapted to modern day conference and banqueting requirements while showing a unique insight into the historical History of the River Thames.

The Hall is centrally located in the heart of the City with easy access to London Bridge, Cannon Street or Liverpool Street main line stations by tube we are just around the corner from Monument with both Tower Hill and Bank just a short walk away.

Friday River Thames Luncheon Club 2020/21

2020

11 September 2020

9 October 2020

23rd October 2020 (additional)

13 November 2020

20th November 2020 (additional)

11 December 2020

2021

12 February 2021

12 March 2021

9 April 2021

14 May 2021

11 June 2021

9 July 2021

The River Thames Luncheon Club is open to all.

To book, contact our caterers Cook and Butler on 020 7620 1818
or cookandbutler@btconnect.com

